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and consistently adhere to them, in entire disregard of the verbal innovations of purists or grammarians, who, aiming at classical correctness in names, have too often brought about instability and confusion."

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Washington, D. C., Monday evening, November 14, 1898, the business meeting being held at the Army Medical Museum. The public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 15, and lasting three days, were held at the U. S. National Museum, the Central High School, and at the Cosmos Club.

BUSINESS SESSION. — The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in the absence of the President, Mr. William Brewster. Seventeen active members were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Congress as 695, constituted as follows: Active, 47; Honorary, 17; Corresponding, 66; Associate, 565.

During the year the Union lost sixty-four members — six by death, twenty-one by resignation, and thirty-seven were dropped for non-payment of dues. The members lost by death were Osbert Salvin,¹ an Honorary Member, who died at Hawksfold, near Haslemere, England, June 1, 1898, aged 63 years; Dr. Anders Johan Malmgren,² a Corresponding Member, who died in Helsingfors, Finland, April 12, 1897, at the age of 63; and Dr. Felix Georg Herman August Mojsisovics von Mojsvár,³ also a

¹ For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XV, pp. 343-345.

² For an obituary notice, see *Ibid*, pp. 214-215.

³ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid*, p. 215.

Corresponding Member, who died in Gratz, Austria, August 27, 1897, aged 48. Also the following Associates: J. Maurice Hatch, who died May 1, 1898, at Colton, Calif., aged 19 years; Dr. George Baur,¹ who died in Munich, Germany, June 24, 1898; and Joseph Carleton Ingersoll, who died October 2, 1898.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in good condition.

The officers elected were: Robert Ridgway, President; Dr. C. Hart Merriam and Charles B. Cory, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; William Dutcher, Treasurer. The vacancy in the Council, occasioned by the election of Mr. Cory as one of the Vice-Presidents, was filled by the selection of Witmer Stone. Mr. William Palmer, of the U. S. National Museum, was elected an Active Member, and the Hon. Walter Rothschild, of the Tring Museum, England, a Corresponding Member. One hundred and one Associate Members were elected, the largest number in any one year, with one exception, since the foundation of the Union. As in the previous year many of the new Associates were women, a result of the Audubon Society movement, and of the present interest taken in the study of birds by teachers in the public and private schools of the country. The usual reports of Standing Committees were received.

PUBLIC SESSION. First Day.—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Merriam. After the transaction of the usual routine business, President-elect Robert Ridgway took the Chair.

The reading of scientific papers began with a paper by Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, entitled 'Among the Birds in Nevada.'

Next came 'The Moults of Passerine Species in the vicinity of New York City,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Remarks followed by Dr. Coues, Messrs. H. C. Oberholser and William Palmer, and the author.

The graphophone demonstration of a Brown Thrasher's song, given by Dr. Sylvester D. Judd, at the opening of the afternoon session, was a new and unique feature of the Congress. Dr. Judd's experiments were made with a cage bird, but the results

¹ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XV, p. 287.

obtained were enough to show that great possibilities in this field may be looked for in the future.

The second title was 'The Distribution and Relationships of *Ammodramus maritimus* and its Allies,' by Mr. Frank M. Chapman.

The next paper was 'The Geographical Distribution of the Wrens of the *bewickii* Group,' by Harry C. Oberholser.

The fourth title was 'Polygamy among Oscines,' by Prof. F. E. L. Beal. Remarks followed by Messrs. Baskett, Chapman, Fuertes, and Nelson.

The fifth paper was 'The Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*, a common summer resident of Southeastern Minnesota,' by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts. Remarks followed by the Chairman (Dr. Merriam), and Mr. Stone.

The sixth title was 'Some early Philadelphia Collectors and Collections,' by Mr. Witmer Stone. Remarks followed by Drs. Coues and Merriam, and the author.

The concluding paper of the afternoon was by Mr. William Palmer, entitled 'Chadbourne on Individual Dichromatism in *Megascops asio*, with some evidence in the question.' Discussion followed by Drs. Allen and Coues, Messrs. Oberholser, Judd, Wood, Dutcher, Baskett, and the author.

Second Day.—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Merriam.

Mr. William Palmer gave, as the first paper of the morning, 'Some Characteristics of Neosoptiles.' Remarks followed by the Chair and Dr. Gill.

Mr. Witmer Stone, Chairman of the 'Committee on Protection of North American Birds,' then read the report of his committee for the past year. The report is published in this number of 'The Auk,' and will be issued as a pamphlet to be sold at a very low price for general distribution.

The afternoon session was held at the Central High School, the large hall in the building having been placed at the disposal of the Union and its friends, by Prof. W. B. Powell. Vice-President C. B. Cory in the Chair. All of the papers read there were illustrated with lantern slides.

The first title was 'The Bird Rocks of the Gulf of St. Law-

rence,' by Frank M. Chapman. Remarks followed by the Chair, Messrs. William Palmer and F. A. Lucas.

Next came an 'Exhibition of lantern slides of birds, birds' nests and nesting haunts, from Nature,' by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts.

Then followed exhibitions of lantern slides by Messrs. William Dutcher and William L. Baily.

The evening session was held in the Assembly Hall of the 'Cosmos Club, by courtesy of the Club, the meeting being called to order by Vice-President Merriam. As in the afternoon all papers read were illustrated with lantern slides.

The opening paper was by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, entitled 'On the Nesting Habits of the Brown Pelican, on Pelican Island, Florida.' Remarks followed by Messrs. Fuertes, Bangs, Wood, Evermann, Oberholser, and the author.

The second title was 'A Chapter in the Life of the Canada Jay,' by Oscar Bird Warren. In the absence of the author it was read by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts. Remarks followed by the Chair.

The concluding paper, 'Clarke's Crows and Oregon Jays on Mt. Hood,' by Miss Florence A. Merriam, was read by Mr. Dutcher, in the absence of the author. Remarks followed by the Chair, and Messrs. Baskett and Osgood.

Third Day. — The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Merriam. Before proceeding to the reading of papers resolutions were adopted thanking the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the use of a hall in the U. S. National Museum for a place of meeting, and for other courtesies extended; to the Washington members of the Union for the cordial welcome and generous hospitality shown visiting members; and to Dr. J. C. Merrill, U. S. A., of the Army Medical Museum, Professor W. B. Powell, Superintendent of Schools, and to the Cosmos Club, for the use of halls under their control for places of meeting.

The first paper of the morning was by Witmer Stone on 'Crow Roosts in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.' Remarks followed by Messrs. Fuertes, Dutcher, S. N. Rhoads, William Palmer and the author.

The second title was 'The Generic Names *Pediocætes* and *Poo-cætes*,' by Dr. Theo. Gill. Discussed by Drs. Coues, Allen, Palmer and Merriam, Messrs. Oberholser, Rhoads, and the author.

The opening paper of the afternoon was by Mr. Harry C. Oberholser entitled 'The Blue Honey-creepers of Tropical America.' Remarks followed by Frank M. Chapman, E. W. Nelson, and the author.

The next title was 'The Water Ouzel on Mt. Shasta,' by Miss Florence A. Merriam. As the author was not present the paper was read by Mr. Dutcher.

Messrs. Nelson R. Wood and Louis Agassiz Fuertes, two members of the Union, then gave, by special request, imitations of the notes of birds.

The third and concluding paper, 'The Nocturnal Flight of Migrating Birds,' by O. G. Libby, was read in the absence of the author by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

The Union then adjourned to meet in Philadelphia, November 13, 1899.

This Congress was a most successful one, both from the high character of the papers read, and from the large attendance of members and visitors.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON PRO- TECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

THE COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS is pleased to report a constantly increasing interest in the work in which it is engaged. During the year it has been in correspondence with representatives of thirty-six States and Territories and the mass of data submitted to the chairman is so large that it is possible only to present a small portion of it in this report.

As heretofore the Committee has acted mainly as a bureau of information, placing correspondents in communication with active workers in their respective States, and furnishing literature and advice whenever possible. Beside this general work some special